

The Revival of Muslim Communities in Russia's Regions: Based on Sociological Research Materials in the Republic of Tatarstan

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Abstract

© Taylor & Francis Group, LLC 2014. In the Federation of Russia's regions, revival of Islam has been accompanied by formation of the primary cells of Muslim communities - mahallah. However, many Islamic researchers and Muslims recognize that these communities do not play a substantial role in the life of believers. The article is based on results of a sociological study involving the mosque personnel, sponsored by the Islamic Studies Center of the Academy of Sciences of Tatarstan. Expert interviews and other documents are also reviewed. Research revealed basic problems impeding the proper functioning of reviving Muslim communities in the region. These include financial problems hindering economic independence, personnel problems despite numerous religious educational institutions, lack of library resources including high quality religious literature, lack of unity among Russia's Muslims, and the need to overcome ideological discrepancies within the larger community of Muslim believers, the ummah.

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